

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - August 19, 2009

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Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Those present were: Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; John Gaydos, City of Bay City; George Augustyniak, Fraser Township; Vaughn Begick, Bay County Commissioner; Mike Niederquell, Wade Trim; Mike Stoner, Bay Metro Transit; Dave Geiger, MDOT Planning; Susan Richardson, MDOT; Dennis Bragiel, Kawkawling Township Supervisor; Gary Brandt, Monitor Township Supervisor; Jim Lillo, Road Commission; and Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff.

Approval of Minutes:

Stoner requested that the minutes be corrected to Bay Metro Transit, not Bay Area Transit. It was moved by Augustyniak, seconded by Brandt, to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2009 meeting. Motion Passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Update From Bay Metro Transit:

Stoner gave an update and said that Bay Metro Transit completed the ARRA Grant application and by the end of the month, they should have the grant complete. The projects include a hybrid-diesel retro fit for some buses. Bay Metro has also been asked by MDOT to participate as a testing site for mini hybrid engine buses. MDOT is working with the old Fisher Body plant which now manufactures these electric-hybrid buses. Bay Metro would be one of a few testing locations. Engelhardt thinks that these projects should at least be listed in the TIP. Richardson agreed that they should be in the TIP in anticipation of possible future funding. Stoner will get more information.

Public Hearing for MDOT and Local TIP Amendments:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 1:37 p.m. by Dave Engelhardt, BCATS Director, to discuss the various TIP Amendments. Engelhardt provided everyone present with a handout of the requested TIP Amendments which included MDOT Amendments and Local Amendments to the TIP.

MDOT would like to add the Bay-Zilwaukee Rail Trail Purchase into the TIP. MDOT, in cooperation with the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network will purchase 6.2 miles of rail road corridor from Kochville Road (Zilwaukee Township) to Backus Street (Bay City) for use as a non-motorized trail, known as the Bay-Zilwaukee Rail Trail. MDOT would also like to add the M-13 Connector Project on Wilder Road for solar lighting.

Richardson discussed the fact that Safety money for the Marquette connector is reduced because of ARRA funds, which have the top priority. Therefore, the ARRA funds from the project are not available to be reallocated, and the safety funds are reduced. The Marquette Connector Project is 89% ARRA funds, so there may not be an option to use any Safety funds that were originally approved for this project. Richardson mentioned that BCATS may have the ability to de-obligate funds in order to re-obligate them for other

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projects. Susan will get more information. Since the ARRA funds from Marquette are not available to go to the Woodside/ Truman/Marquette Project as planned, BCATS will transfer the remaining STP funds from Harrison St to the this project as it was the top priority project. The North Union Rd Projects will then not be funded.

Richardson would like a list of alternate BCATS Safety projects and will talk to someone in Lansing about what is being done with the safety funds. BCATS members were concerned that these changes with the Safety funds had taken place with no notification to the MPOs.

In addition, Lillo wanted to let BCATS know that he will be removing the Beaver Road Projects from the TIP as both Beaver Road projects have been cancelled. Discussion ensued.

The Public Hearing on the MDOT and Local TIP Amendments, was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 2:08 p.m.

Approval of TIP Amendments:

A motion was made by Lillo, seconded by Augustyniak, to approve the M-13 Connector Light Project, Bay-Zil Rail Trail, Transfer of STP funds from Harrison St to Woodside/Truman/Marquette Project and deletion of the 2 Beaver Road Projects and subject to confirmation of the safety grant funding and amount of STP funds available from Harrison St. Motion Passed.

Public Hearing for BCATS Public Participation Plan:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Dave Engelhardt, BCATS Director, to discuss the approval of the BCATS Public Participation Plan. Engelhardt reviewed the proposed language changes that allow for a short notice than seven days. There was also the removal of any specific newspaper/publication name being used in the plan to better accommodate notification publication to prevent future notification limitations. Engelhardt has not received many comments about the changes, and those he has received have been very positive and supportive of the changes to the BCATS Public Participation Plan. Lillo wondered if having notices published on an internet news site was acceptable or legal for this process. Richardson said she'd look into the matter. Discussion ensued.

The Public Hearing on the BCATS Public Participation Plan was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 2:14 p.m.

Approval of BCATS Participation Plan:

A motion was made by Brandt, seconded by Richardson to approve the BCATS Public Participation Plan as revised. Motion passed.

BCATS Technical Committee Meeting Dates:

As an informational item, Engelhardt discussed the possibility of having fixed dates for the BCATS Technical Committee Meetings. He is proposing the Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the

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week prior to the BCATS Policy Committee Meetings. This date will work better for our FHWA representative, Rachael Tupica.

BCATS FY-2010 Unified Work Program (UWP):

Engelhardt submitted the BCATS FY-2010 Unified Work Program (UWP) to the State. There were some great additions from Bay Metro to the UWP regarding flexible match.

Engelhardt reminded everyone to keep track of their time in order to make sure we are reimbursing for services. Engelhardt has been looking at how other areas handle reimbursement of services such as Battle Creek and Jackson. As BCATS prepares for the 2011 UWP, more discussions will take place.

New Preliminary FEMA DFIRM Maps for Bay County:

Engelhardt discussed the preliminary DFIRM released by FEMA for Bay County. It shows some changes to 100 year flood zones. Bay County GIS has compared the preliminary DFIRM to the county parcels to determine which properties may be affected and sent out a notice to the townships. If a home falls in the new flood zone, but outside the current zone, owners may have to add flood insurance. If they purchase their flood insurance now, they will be able to get it a lower rate based on the current effective maps. Rates will go up once the new maps become effective.

Non-Motorized Update:

Westbury discussed the TIP Amendment, the acquisition of the trail line along the Saginaw River to Zilwaukee. Dow has providing decking for one, maybe two of the bridges on the trail. A portion of the Bay City Railtrail loop from Park Ave to Trumbull St has been re-paved. There will be a three day fund raiser for connecting the Bay, Midland and Saginaw trails, "3 Trails in 3 Days" taking place September 18th - 20th and they are looking for volunteers.

Projects Update:

The **Wilder Road/State Park Signal Project** is underway. The **Delta Road Bridge Project** is under budget and should be done by early September, 2009. The **Midland Road Project** is in the design stage. The **Harrison Street Project** is complete. The **North Henry Street Project** is not quite complete as the hydro seed didn't take the first time and the grass has to be re-seeded. The **Marquette Ave Connector Project** will begin August 24, 2009. The **Wilder Road Project** and **Woodside/Truman/Marquette Project** will have a GI date in September, 2009. The signal for this project will done along with joint repairs and drainage basins.

Lillo and Gaydos are working on a quote to hire a consultant to fill out the inventory package required by MDOT for the study of turning over Wilder Road and Trumbull as an extension of M-15.

The **M-25 MDOT Project** is on schedule to be completed in November. The **M-84 MDOT Project** will be let in October of 2009 with a construction beginning in 2010 and continue into 2011. There were some modifications to the project plans as there are agreements for curb and gutter with the church, providing easements, and providing a crosswalk from the

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school to the church. The **Mackinaw Road MDOT Traffic Counts Project** will be conducted in October, 2009. The **I-75 MDOT Project** scheduled for 2011 will be moved forward to 2010 and will require a modification in the TIP. MDOT will provide more information at the next meeting once it is all compiled.

Other/New Business:

Johnson Street Project:

Gaydos stated Kildee's office had informed him that have been awarded a \$300,000 earmark for the reconstruction of Johnson Street. Gaydos wanted to know if the money had to spent the year that the money is awarded. Richardson will look into this matter for Gaydos.

Bicycle Trail Design Training:

There will be a Bicycle Trail Design Training taking place. If anyone is interested they should contact Engelhardt for more details.

TIGER Funds:

Engelhardt explained that there's a grant application for regional significant projects (\$20 million) available.

Asset Management:

Commissioner Begick attended an Asset Management Training. He thought the information was very interesting. He also felt that he learned a great deal from the session and believes he has a better understanding of the process.

As there was no further business, the August 19, 2009 BCATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul